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JOHN VACH
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A former police intelligence officer who used a department computer to gather information for private security firms with possible CIA ties was sentenced Wednesday to informal probation and fined \$1,000.

In a plea bargain with the District Attorney's Office, Officer John Vach, a former member of the Los Angeles Police Department's Organized Crime Intelligence Division, pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges stemming from his illegal use of the division's computer terminal.

Two related misdemeanor counts were dismissed by Municipal Court Judge David Doi, who sentenced Vach to 12 months informal probation and ordered him to pay a \$1,000 fine by April 16 or serve 32 days in jail.

Vach, who was recently transferred to Newton Division detectives, additionally faces an internal police board of rights hearing Thursday to determine what disciplinary action the department will take against him.

Prosecutors said Vach used the police computer to check the criminal backgrounds of individuals and then provided that information to unauthorized persons, clients of the two private security firms he operated out of his Glendale home.

According to documents filed by investigators in Municipal Court and unsealed last November, Vach allegedly performed illegal surveillance -- including wiretaps -- while providing security for an unidentified wealthy Kuwaiti man and his children.

A former business associate of Vach's, Richard Repasky, told police investigators Vach had arranged to illegally record a 1983 conversation between a private British security agent, Trevor Gloughley, and a friend of the agent's who was secretly working for Vach.

Repasky told investigators Gloughley had been hired by the mother of the children of the wealthy Kuwaiti man to come to Los Angeles to steal the youngsters from their father.

Gloughley's friend -- identified only as "Earl" -- had been hired by Vach to learn the details of Gloughley's plans to steal the children, Repasky said.

Repasky said he gave the transcript of the conversation between Gloughley and "Earl" to a CIA employee named Jack Haarmeyer, who later told investigators he no longer had it.

Prosecutors did not charge Vach with any counts stemming from the alleged illegal surveillance.